

THAT'S NOT SKANKING RECORDS Free fanzine



PUNK-SKA

featuring: the dangerfields, buzzkill, dog toffee, the great 8' lions,
the shadowcops, revenge of the psychotronic man, the frack me,
the hypofax, harijan, just panic, sounds of swami, on the turn,
the klirkz, speeding bee, faintest idea, the medicine boys,
death by decibels, matt woods, the shuffle,
mr international and the getaway gang

MYSpace.com/THATSNOTSKANKINGRECORDS

issue 1

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TNSrecords fanzine, issue 1: So, after 18 issues of 'That's Not Skanking' fanzine and 3 years of band nights in the Manchester area, we have decided to turn TNS into a record label. We've been thinking about this for a while and are genuinely very excited about this project. As a result we are kinda re-launching the whole TNS package. As we are now doing this on a much larger scale we are very aware that many people will be new to what we are doing so we have decided to start the fanzine at issue one again to coincide with our first label release.

During my time writing a fanzine, putting on punk and ska gigs and playing/touring in bands myself I have come across so many amazing bands who quite simply do not get the exposure they deserve. I can't quite put my finger on why that is, when the quality of the more underground bands is there for all to see and let's be honest, (and if you are taking the time to read this, you will probably agree) the vast majority of more mainstream music, is... utter shite.

We certainly are not saying that we want the bands we have come across to be ruined by the mainstream, but we are also aware that there are lots and lots of like minded people out there who genuinely enjoy hearing new bands and that may really rate some of the bands TNS has worked with if they were to hear them.

This label is our small attempt at reaching some of you people and doing something positive by putting out some music by bands we genuinely really rate. As far as we are concerned there is little use sitting in a room packaging CDs and sending them off to labels who won't listen to them when we have facility to release music ourselves, so the decision was made to start a label.

TNS is run by myself (Andy), Bev and George. We are not actually signing any bands as such but we are helping bands to release stuff to a wider audience through our label so that they can move onto bigger things.

At present we are mostly working with bands who have been involved with TNS, but more importantly, like minded bands who are eager to help each other out by distributing each others music and sorting each other gigs in their home towns. We reckon it is vitally important that bands work together as a community at this level and the bands featured in this fanzine really promote that ethic.

Most of these bands play for very little money and often for free because music isn't about any financial gain for them and none of them are prepared to adhere to trends. This is what punk is all about for us, genuine, real music played by people who know the score and do what they do because it means something more to them than fashion, trends and than the crap we are told to like by MTV and in Kerrang.

Our first release is a 20 track compilation CD of TNS endorsed bands. You can read a little bit about all of the bands in this fanzine as this issue is dedicated to the release of the CD.

At only £4, we reckon the compilation is an ideal way for people to hear some of the UK's finest underground bands. You can also expect a high quality product for your pennies as the recordings are of a high standard (and several are exclusive to the CD) and the whole compilation has been fully mastered by top Manchester producer Tim G. It is also professionally pressed and packaged so it's a little more than your average DIY compilation.

We hope that at such a low price, some of you will give this CD a go and if you like it let us know and spread the word, but even if you do just check out some of the bands we genuinely appreciate your interest.

There are full details of how to buy the CD on the back cover and links to the bands music throughout the issue and a full track listing at the bottom of the next page. There is also info about gigs we put on, on the back page.

We genuinely wanna support the music we love at grass routes level. If this sounds like your thing please help us out by buying a CD. This is a non-profit label and if we do make any money it will go straight back into new releases. In fact we have a Revenge of the Psychotronic Man/Fractions split ep on it's way soon and other releases in the pipeline.

Enjoy the fanzine and check out some of the bands. I hope you like them as much as we do!

For fanzine enquiries contact me at: thatsnotskanking@hotmail.com

For label enquiries contact Bev at: www.myspace.com/thatsnotskankingrecords

Please add us and spread the word. There is a facebook group too (we are internet whores).

TNSrecords fanzine was written by Beth Abbit, Davey Psychotronic, Mikey Wong and myself, Andy. I also did the art work. Cheers to Dave, Mikey and Beth, but also to anyone who did interviews or sent us stuff. Huge thanks also to Roadkill Records, New Home Records, Rockers England and the Castle pub in Manchester, You are fuckin' stars!



Manchester Ska Punk favourites The Fractions are riding high on the success of their UK tours and EPs. The popular 6 piece will record their first full length album around Easter and plan to follow it up with a summer tour.

TNS caught up with guitarist Graeme to talk about the new material.

The Fractions have come a long way since their inception in 2002, and it shows. Their gigs are always packed and they have a reputation as one of the most exciting unsigned punk bands in Manchester, if not the UK.

"Our sound has always been changing slightly because we've seen band members come and go, along with their influences.

We started off playing more ska stuff, and we've now ended up with a punk/ska sound with a gruff edge."

The band plan a full album release this summer.

"We've got six or seven songs ready for it now and we're finishing off writing a couple more. We're aiming to record around Easter time, with a split EP with Revenge of the Psychotronic Man coming out before then."

"The song we've recorded for the TNS compilation is called 'We Were Kings'. It was recorded and produced by Tim G in Manchester. We booked a day in the studio and it was mixed a week later. We picked it because it has catchy bits and its one of our favourites. We don't put the lyrics out because it makes Joe blush, so you'll have to work them out for yourself." Having played all over the UK, The Fractions look forward to further tours.

"The last tour was amazing. We headed up to Scotland and played the North East. It was great going up to Aberdeen. It took about 9 hours to get there, but it's all part of the experience. The promoter had never booked us before, yet when we got there, he gave us a massive pot of food and some beers, then after the gig he took us out around Aberdeen and let us crash at his flat. Really top guys they were. Plus Aberdeen was when Martin fell over a massive chair, after failing to chat up the locals. Check our Myspace for the photo."

Graeme says it means a lot to the band that promoters give them the chance to play alongside more established acts.

"In terms of the bigger bands, our standout gigs have got to be Leatherface and Big D and the Kids Table. They were both at Satan's Hollow in Manchester and were great gigs, really busy too."

"As for as bands we like playing with, there's Harijan, Revenge of the Psychotronic Man, Sounds of Swami, The Shadowcops and Sense of Urgency. They're all great local bands and great mates, so it's always good when we play the same gigs."

The Fractions would eventually like to get signed to a label, but future ambitions currently lie firmly in recording new material for an album.

"Gigging is great because you get a buzz playing your own songs live and you see people enjoying them too. It's completely different when we record though. You've got to have a lot of patience while stuff gets set up and you can end up playing the same song over and over until it sounds spot on. It's a bit stressful at times when you record, but when we get the final finished songs, it's all worth it and you get your buzz from that by what people say about it."

With influences ranging from Capdown and King Prawn to whiskey and Lidl, The Fractions diverse sound has been well received.

"With almost everyone having a Myspace account these days, they can hear our stuff for free. Plus, we're on a couple of compilations, so that's more people to hear our stuff. We made our latest EP free so anyone who likes us can hear it and if they like it, hopefully come down to our gigs."

"We're dead proud to be part of the North West punk scene. In Manchester, the scene has become really strong over the last few years. There's always been sell out NOFX and Rancid gigs at the Academy, but the 'punks' who go to these gigs are just weekend warriors."

"I've seen some cracking bands at small venues in Manchester, and these bands deserve to play much bigger gigs. Promoters will always have to graft their balls off to get people down, and judging by how turn outs are going, these promoters deserve a massive pat on the back. Let the weekend warriors keep their Rancid's and we'll all keep our underground scene. It's always getting stronger."

We Were Kings appears on the new TNS compilation.

www.thefractions.co.uk www.myspace.com/thefractions

By Beth Abbit

Current line up: Joe – guitar/vocals, Ewan – trombone/vocals, Graeme – guitar/vocals, Martin – bass, Matt – drums, Summers – trumpet/vocals

TRACK LISTING FOR THE TNSrecords COMPILATION ALBUM:

MUSIC BY PEOPLE WHO DRINK CIDER IN THE GUTTER

- (1) The Dangerfields - Midnight Scene
 - (2) Revenge of the Psychotronic Man - Get Pissed, Talk Shit, Dance Like an Idiot (exclusive to comp)
 - (3) The Kirkz – Ratz
 - (4) The Shadowcops – Putsch
 - (5) Buzzkill - Broken Picture (alternative mix, exclusive to this compilation)
 - (6) The Great St Louis - One Day
 - (7) Dog Toffee - NME Darling
 - (8) Just Panic – Crime
 - (9) Harijan - Curriculum Vitae
 - (10) The Fractions - We Were Kings (exclusive to comp)
 - (11) On the Turn (formerly 3dbs down) - Kidnap and Ransom
 - (12) Speeding Bee - Cat. Pie. Bake
 - (13) Faintest Idea - See You in the Gutter
 - (14) The Hyperjax - English Country Garden (exclusive)
 - (15) The Medicine Bow – Bourban
 - (16) Mr International and the Getaway Gang - Binge Drinker
 - (17) Sounds of Swami - Identity Crisis
 - (18) Death By Decibals - Song For the Union
 - (19) The Shuffle - Rise or Fall
- (Bonus) Matt Woods - So Straight Edge I'm on Daytime TV (new recording especially for comp)



Sam Woods - Vox + Guitars -
Liam Revenge - Guitars + Vox -
Keith Green - Bass + Vox - Neil
Holden - Drums
From - The North West, England

Website/contact info:
www.thehyperjax.co.uk
www.myspace.com/thehyperjax
the_hyperjax@hotmail.com

You have recently had big line up changes. How has this affected the band, the overall sound and the song writing process? Well I'm not just saying this but I think this line up is proving to be more positive in its sound and attitude. We're all working well together and making sure we're tight before gigs. I'm getting what I want out of the new songs with help of the others when coming to arrange them.

You have plans to visit Europe in 2008. How do you expect the crowds to differ outside of the UK? Well I never expect, but I know on the continent they make effort to turn out to gigs and enjoy themselves more than over here and hopefully they'll walk away with some of our merch.

Obviously a double bass is quite integral to your sound, but it does also link you in with the whole psychobilly scene. Would you see yourself as part of that genre and is it important that you are also able to play comfortably on more punk and rock n' roll line ups too?

Well yes it does link us with that genre and I'm not ashamed to be labelled it anymore. It's a lot more popular now than what it was when we were first starting out. I'm never going to jump on this "graveyard/zombies/horror whatever you call it bandwagon". I'm not against any of that but our songs are nothing to do with that and I think The Hyperjax are a breath of fresh air which ever genre you place us on.

I hear you have an album planned for early next year. What can we expect from this and how will it compare to your older material? Well you could expect the usual Hyperjax catchy hooks and can I say more mature with a small 'm' style. There are more dynamics in some of the new songs too, without losing their edge. We're going for a better sound this time.

After being in a band with Liam for nearly 3 years myself, I wondered if you had managed to come up with any strategies to speed up how long it takes him to do his hair?

Ha ha! Well we all know we've got deadlines to meet, so that's taken care of. Fortunately he wears hats at practice so he's never late arriving and it's obviously does his hair well in advance before a gig, perhaps when he's running home from work.

Answers: Sam Questions: Andy

Rob Gilbert - Vocals/Bass
Luke Yates - Vocals/Guitar
Kurt Wood - Vocals/Guitar
Matthew Wade - Drums
Location: Keighley, West Yorkshire
www.myspace.com/soundsofswami

SOUNDS OF SWAMI

How did you come up with your band name?

We're a bit of a weird band so we wanted a bit of a weird name where people would have to think about its meaning. Unfortunately almost everyone doesn't know what a Swami is and we have to explain... a lot!

You take influence from a wide range of punk, metal and hardcore. How important is this to your sound and do you enjoy being difficult to categorise?

We never intended to be "that weird band" but we always wanted to be playing something alternative and true to the four of us. We used to write one song that was punky, another that was grungy, another one that was metal etc, etc. We've finally got to a stage where all our songs incorporate and mix each influence pretty well. We get to play with a variety of different bands because of this and we love it.

How do you find it being based in fairly small town? Is it important that you get out to cities as much as possible and where are your favourite places to gig?

In Keighley there's a strong music community spirit and a lot of great bands. We love the music community here but it's important to branch out gig-wise and to develop your sound. We don't play Keighley that much and it's weird to say that we can pull a bigger crowd in Manchester and Leeds but coming home for a gig after 1.5 out of town is always good. When we do play a home show, people usually say "you guys have got pretty good" in a very surprised kind of way. In other words "I used to think you guys were shit!"

...continued on next page

Fank, Ste, Alun
From - Liverpool
www.myspace.com/justpanic

JUST PANIC.

TNS) You've just signed to New Home Records. How did that come about and what will this mean in terms of releasing your music?

Andy

Ste/Frank) It's thanks to Kev who's seen us playing around Liverpool since we began pretty much. He told us about New Home Records, and offered us a distribution deal which we were all really glad to take up. Now we have professional cds on sale at all our shows and over the internet, and obviously plan for more in the future.

Alun) We've not officially signed anything but a mate called Kev was really into our band and he used to put us on at gigs in Heaven n Hell and now Roadkill in Liverpool! We think he's a star!

TNS) Your sound seems to take influence from a wide variety of bands. How would you describe your stuff and who would you list as influences?

Ste/Frank) There is definitely a diverse range of influences that come from all three of us. When we work on our music in practices we all have our different inputs and they end up being part of the final song. Against Me, Bouncing Souls, Green Day, Bob Dylan, Bedouin Soundclash, Bruce Springsteen and Cher are just a few of the influences we draw on when writing songs.

Alun) I've always wanted us introduced like Tenacious D used to back in the day, but with bands that we're influenced by instead, so "The Bouncing Souls, Against Me and Bob Dylan could not make it tonight, but they had rampant sex before the show and in replacement is their three-headed love child, Just Panic!"

I'm influenced by Travis Barker, Jose Pasillas from Incubus and every drummer that is better than me when we play gigs (which is practically everyone!)

TNS) How does having two quite different song-writers affect your sound?

Ste/Frank) We both grew up together and got into punk music together, so we are on the same wavelength as songwriters. This means that we both get to express ourselves as individuals musically and lyrically, without there being any tension about the sound or direction of the band. More recently as well, structuring the songs, and adding finishing touches has become a collaborative effort between all three of us in rehearsal. Overall, having two different songwriters adds to the diversity of our sound, and brings more creative ideas to the table.

Alun) It's much better! Instead of having a sole writer who wants to control things it feels much more like a unit, mates who bring an equal number of ideas to the table and manage to write quality tunes. People always have a favourite so that adds competition to the band which means everyone tries harder!

TNS) I believe you are all spread around the country now, due to uni and such like. How difficult is it to keep the band up and running whilst managing other commitments?

Ste/Frank) Luckily we've managed to all be living within an hours drive of each other, so this is a massive help. We are all staying committed to keeping in contact regularly, new songs are always in the pipeline, and we are playing gigs as often as possible.

Alun) I end up sleeping in Frank's bed in uni a lot, so it doesn't trouble me personally!

TNS) You must be pretty gutted that Casablanclas in Southport closed down. How did you find it playing a gig in an Egyptian banquet hall and what are the kids of Southport doing with themselves now it's gone?

Ste/Frank) Casablanclas was a great place for kids to come and have a good laugh to some good quality local and not so local music. It was great to be part of it and always good to see new bands getting on stage. Now that it's gone it's much more difficult to get onstage in front of a crowd like that. And now that I think about it, they were the only all ages gigs that were really happening. Maybe over summer we'll try and do something about it!

Alun) It was the best venue in Southport for all ages gigs and it was unwisely shut down! The kids are probably all on smack and having loads of babies. Failing that, venturing to Manchester, Liverpool and Ormskirk where the scene is still going strong! Hayden's started running Fubar again which is a consolation :)

...sounds of swami, continued.

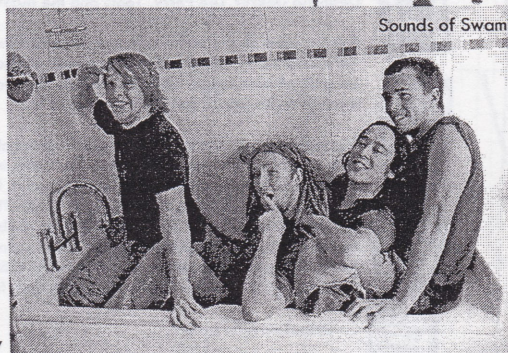
You recently recorded some new material. Are you happy with the results and how can people get hold of the new CD?

We recorded two tracks with TimG a couple of months ago. One of which is on the TNS compilation and we're very happy with the results. We're recording 4 more songs in February with Tim and releasing them as our debut 6 track EP in April.

How difficult is it being in a band which has the two shortest guitarists in England?

Short answer: Fuck you!

Andy



Sounds of Swami

THE MEDICINE BOW

Andy

Based - Mainly South Manchester via Liverpool

Website/contact info - <http://www.myspace.com/shambolicmajesties>

You have a wide variety of influences on your sound. How would you describe your music to the uninitiated? Stu) An utter folly! A big flowery enclilada of consumptive country skronk meets syphilithic goth with glam grimacing into Spaghetti bastard western metal encasing eloquent paeans to pissing up the wrong fucking tree. Though maybe FictionNonFiction got it right when they said it's 'Wonky Tonk'. Whichever, Emo Morricone & The Self-Harming Mexicans won't be contained by any one stage.

Sam) Motorhead meeting the ghost of Johnny Cash in that bar out of the Blues Brothers and throwing bottles at each other just before the bomb goes off.

The Bow have been involved in the Manchester music scene for a number of years now. How has it changed and what are the best and worst bits?

Stu) Well, there's still the laughable shapeshifters of course but it is a lot better overall than it was several years ago with the amount of different nights on & people such as FictionNonFiction, your good selves & Fungalpunk putting nights on away from the mainstream clip joints. Much of it, let it not go unsaid, stems directly or indirectly from Stefan setting up Voodoo as a single sliver of hope amid the dark days of Britpop kak biscuits. Worst bits? Venues disregard for bands at this level... Seeing people play with about as much passion as a castrated puffin and wanting to be in a band but moaning at having to put some effort in. Careerists & opportunists that don't seem to actually love or enjoy what they're doing, which just baffles me. Best bits? Us, naturally, & those moments when a song has become just bow-legged & ragged enough to be right.

How do you balance playing in other bands as well as the Bow and how does it affect you in terms of gigging?

Stu) 'Tis indeed an intricate system of checks & balances worthy of a Johnny Ball show. At present it works alright though it can be a bit of a glum-inducer not to have all 7 of us all the time, especially when you know you've just played a great gig. There's occasional reigns of confusion but that's just by the by, or The Bow. The Bow's my main priority really (no offence to anyone) but we seem to have managed so far.

What are your long term plans as a band?

Stu) Smoke Marlboro reds, drink Jack Daniels & ride Harleys. Not really big on such things as plans seen as we're only just finally getting our record finished that we started over 2 years ago. I wanna hit Vegas & Germany & generally try to defy the Curse of The Bow & sail the Good Ship round straits of cirrhosis in ever more ludicrous shirtage. I also need some new boots, & I'll always be tempted to lead us into double figures too... & generally just staying upright.

Sam) Buy more shirts, drink more booze, sink more galleons.

What do you think about Matt Woods song 'Jeff Buckley is Dead' being taken off YouTube by Sony?

Stu) I think it's completely preposterous. Matt wrote it & Andrea filmed it, there's no slander or libel, so where they get the infringement of copyright from beats me, 'less they actually own his name as a trademark, which being Sony they probably do. Though I bet Peter Andre's miffed that his label aren't fighting his corner so much.

Sam) I don't understand why it has happened. What copywrite has he breached? Matt is merely making a statement of fact. Cathrin) I happen to like Jeff Buckley, I'm not really so glad he's dead, but I like Matt a lot and what I like more than anything else is FREEDOM OF SPEECH and what I really hate is big bastard corporate arseholes who think they can silence someone's opinions with threats and bullying. Sing loud and proud, Matt. x

FANTEST IDEA

Rude boy street punks Faintest Idea have a busy year ahead of them recording new material and touring the UK. TNS caught up with bassist Dani for a chat.

Faintest Idea have achieved a fair amount for a band so young, and after several years together and some line-up changes, they've developed a sound they're confident with.

"It's a lot more aggressive now, our lyrics are just about stuff that affects us and our lives, so they haven't changed too much. But the music's a lot harder and faster than it used to be, and the ska side is a lot more steered towards older ska, 2-tone and the stuff that came before that, like Desmond Dekker, Lee Perry, Toots and the Maytals."

Faintest Idea hit the studio in March to record their new album.

"We want to try and get it to every punk, skinhead and rude boy in the fucking world! That might be a bit of an exaggeration, but we just want to try and advertise it as much as possible and tour as much as we can to get it out to people."

A passion for gigging and punk music in general means the band plan to tour as much as possible.

"The last tour went surprisingly well. We did it in Maggie May, who was our old van (RIP). We had no spare tyre because someone had slashed it. Our wing mirror got knocked off, so I kicked someone else's off and gaffer taped it to her. The brakes and headlights didn't really work either, but we managed to do 2000 miles with no problems! There were lots of memories; starting fires in Manchester, going clubbing in Leeds and dancing to Fallout Boy, driving for 8 hours from Devon to Essex, going to a conspiracy theory museum in Blackpool and getting in a massive argument with the bloke there, dressing up as the Village People for a gig, siphoning diesel, lots of memories."

Continued on next page...



Froj - Vocals Guitar, John - Vocals Bass, Gaz - Vocals Guitar, Lee - Drums

Warrington UK/ Corona CA USA

www.myspace.com/deathbydecibels

Gig and tour bookings...www.myspace.com/merseyrockmike

You have played some pretty high profile support slots in your time. Who have you particularly enjoyed gigging with?

As far as the big bands go, Vice Squad are always great to play with.

We've been pretty lucky with some of the bands we've played alongside, obviously there's some that we'd like to bring back just to have the chance to meet, but to play alongside bands like the Adicts, Sham 69 and the UK Subs, GBH, all the original guys who have been playing for 30 years or so is an honour. To be honest though, as you probably know yourself often the most enjoyable times are little DIY gigs with bands you've known for years. **What is your opinion of the UK punk scene at the moment?**

What are the good and bad points and how can it improve?

Generally I do think it's on the up. It's a promising sign when most of the indie bands on the radio are starting to sound more and more like the Clash and the Jam. The Gallows are getting good airplay and they're a pretty rough sounding punk band (I mean that in a good way)

so I think there's an opening in the wake of all the emo bands. I know that it gets a lot of stick, and I don't listen to it but I know the roots of the genre are in hardcore, so if the recent boom turned 10% of My Chemical Romance fans onto bands like Sick of it All or

Agnostic Front, then it can't be that bad, right? Years ago I would have said the main problem with the scene was the old timers not giving young bands a chance to prove themselves, but we seem to be at least appreciated when we play to an older audience, and a lot of the time they're more enthusiastic if anything. The problem now is that the kids aren't turning out to that many shows. I guess it's because the higher profile gigs are getting more and more expensive so people have to be more selective about what they spend their money on and because of this it's hard to fill DIY gigs.

What are your long term plans for the band? Where do you see yourselves in a years time?

Next year we're going to concentrate on touring, sort out more UK shows but get back over to USA again.

It's shaping up to be a busy one so we're really looking forward to it.

You seem to blend a more old school sound with a more contemporary take on punk rock quite comfortably. Which do you take more influence from and has it enabled you to play quite a variety of bills? It's a weird one that, I know this probably sounds like a cliché but when we write songs we don't really set out to make them sound like anything, so I think influence is all subconscious really. We have played with a great range of bands though, earlier this year we played with the Who, and like I said before a lot of the original punk bands like the Adicts, Sham 69 and the UK Subs, but we've also played with the likes of the King Blues and the Grit who are really relevant. I think that's why they have such a great following at the minute. There's still a huge check list of bands who we'd love to play with though.

What is the DBD message to the punk world? Keep at it, stick together, have a good time.

Faintest Idea continued...

"Our standout gig was, supporting Sponge. They weren't really our type of music, but there were a fucking lot of people there. Playing at the Underworld in Camden was really cool as I'd just been to see Suicide Bid there a few months before, and then we were playing there, that was pretty cool. The Fungal punk gigs are always really good fun as well, Dave gets some really fucking quality bands at his gigs."

"There are so many good punk and ska bands out there at the minute. The Fractions, Revenge of the Psychotronic Man, 2 Sick Monkeys, Snitcho and the Dinosaurs, Jon Doe and the Fuck Ups. Plus bands from home like Fletch Cadillac (we always seem to get in a fight, whatever gig we play with them) and a fairly new band called Common Sense. They're really good and fucking nice guys."

"The song we've recorded for the TNS compilation is called See You in the Gutter. Sam wrote that song, it's about people wasting their lives through smack. It's about a particular person and how smack has just ruined his life."

With plenty of gigs in place and ambitions for further albums, Faintest Idea look like they'll be around for some time.

"We just want to be able to make a living off doing the band. We don't wanna be rich, but to be able to live comfortably doing what we do would be incredible."

See You in the Gutter appears on the new TNS album.

www.faintestidea.tk www.myspace.com/faintestidea

By Beth Abbit

Members are:

Dani - Bass + Vocals, Sam - Guitar + Vocals, Lil Dan - Sax, Warren - Drums

Based: Norfolk

By Andy



Interview with Ben from Buzzkill (Leeds)

Can you tell us how Buzzkill came about and what you've been up to over the last few months?

Basically we evolved out of a punk/ska band that Matt started in his teens. I think it was sometime in 2001 (shortly after I joined the band) that the decision was taken to ditch everything that had gone before and start afresh, we tend to regard that as being the time that this band formed. As for the last few months, well they've been pretty hectic really. We've just finished a brief tour with The Computers (a hardcore / rock 'n' roll band from Exeter) who are not only an amazing band but a great bunch of guys and a good laugh too. I think Carl's penning some kind of tour diary at the moment that may or may not expose some of the, how do I put this... interesting events that occurred on our travels, so look out for that on our blog! We also recorded a new demo that we've since uploaded to our myspace.

Which bands did you listen to growing up and which bands ultimately influence your song-writing and sound? Growing up we listened to a lot of the US punk bands around at the time, obviously Green Day were in there as were bands like NOFX, The Descendents, Rancid etc. but so were bands like Rocket From The Crypt, Refused and a bunch of the more rock 'n' roll Burning Heart bands. I guess ultimately those were the bands that influenced our sound along with older bands like The Sonics and The Saints.

What have been your favourite moments as a band since you formed Buzzkill?

Well personally since joining Buzzkill I'd say my favourite moments, aside from playing the gigs themselves, would have to be all the random/stupid things that happen whilst on tour. Various band members falling off stage, Matt literally getting so drunk at Wasted festival that he could hardly stand, Charlie pretty much pulling a girl whilst travelling on the motorway, seriously, he just wrote a message and his number on a used drum skin and passed it through the window whilst travelling at speed! I don't know there's been loads, ask me over a pint at a gig sometime.

How do you think your new material sounds compared with your earlier releases?

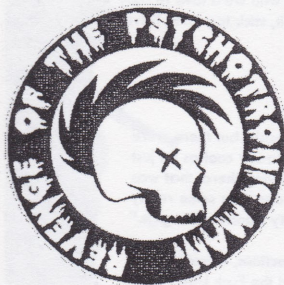
I think it's the best stuff yet, we're trying out new things and there's a lot more depth to the song writing on the new material. We've a bunch of new songs aside from those on the new demo and we're all itching to get back in the studio and record a new album.

...and finally... What can we expect to see and hear from Buzzkill in 2008?

Well aside from your compilation, Punktastic are doing a tribute to the Fat Wreck Chords 'Short Music' comp. It will feature 99 bands all performing tracks of 30 seconds or less and has our song "Batten Down The Hatches" on it, I think it's due out in January. We're also planning another tour with our new found friends The Computers and all being well we'll be recording the follow up to Driven By Loss!

Interview by Davey

ALSO FEATURED ON THE COMPILATION ARE:



REVENGE! OF THE PSYCHOTRONIC MAN

Location: Manchester

Band members:

Andy Psychotronic! - bass/vocals, Davey Psychotronic! - guitar/vocals, Matt Woods - guitar/vocals, Big Hands - Drums and being a Cunt-ryside person

Sounds Like: Lightning fast punk played by complete idiots.

Influences: The Lawrence Arms, Kid Dynamite, The Wildhearts, Zeke, Alan Partridge, anything that is fuckin' fast!

History: Revenge of... are named after the B movie of the same name (in fact the makers of the film made them a music video) and already have 5 UK tours/over 130 gigs under their belts alongside their 2005 album: Shitty Zombies and their 2007 ep: Party in the Van!

They are famed for their high energy, chaos ridden live show, in which anything can happen.

Hear them at: www.revengeofthepsychotronicman.com or

www.myspace.com/revengeofthepsychotronicman

Any bands interested in gig swaps, should get in touch as RPM put on Manchester gigs monthly.

TNSrecords will be releasing a Revenge of the Psychotronic Man/The Fractions split ep later this year!

ON THE TURN (formerly 3DBS Down)

Location: London/the South East

Band members:

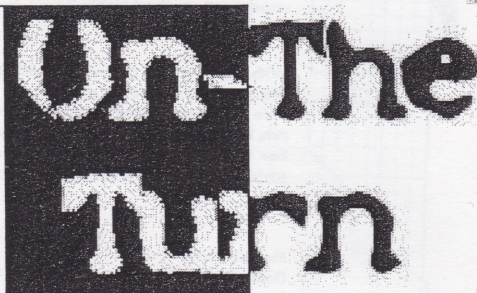
St! - Bass/Vocals, Tage - Guitar/Vocals, Matt - Guitar/Vocals, Mr J - Drums

Sounds Like: Ska edged punk, with Wildhearts-esque riffs and note perfect harmonies

Influences: Wildhearts, RX Bandits, The Deftones, Bad Religion, Goldfinger, DEUS

History: On the Turn unfortunately split at the tail end of last year, but we thought that people should hear them even though they are no more. Their albums (Bottom of the Learning Curve and Can of Worms) are both wicked!

Hear them at: www.myspace.com/ontheturnuk





Mr International & The Getaway Gang

Location: Manchester

Band members:

Ari Jones - Guitar/Vocals, Gemma Lovegrove - Bass/Vocals, Loz Caird - Drums

Sounds Like: Energetic punk rock n' roll

Influences: Alcohol, the Clash, Green Day, The Ramones, the Bouncing Souls

History: Manchester based 3 piece who have been turning heads locally for a couple of years and are set to release their new 4 track ep.

Hear them at: myspace.com/mrinternationalandthegatewaygang

Location: Durham

Band members: Gareth Abrahams - Bass, Gary Whelpdale- Guitar and Horns, Nathan Griffin- Drums and Vocals.

Sounds Like: Melodic punk with a ska edge and big choruses

Influences: Dillinger 4, The Broadways, Zombina and the Skeletons

History: Recently signed to PassToTheLeft records with a successful UK tour under their belts.

Hear them at: www.myspace.com/speedingbee

SPEEDING BEE

Location: Macclesfield

Band members: Blair - vocals/guitar, Jon - vocals/lead guitar, Dave - vocals/bass, Craig - drums

Sounds Like: Rise Against-esque melodies with a harder punk edge

Influences: Rancid, Rise Against, Strike Anywhere, Anti Flag, the Kirkz

History: Formerly Monkey Shuffle, these guys are one of the hardest gigging acts in the North West

Hear them at: www.myspace.com/theshuffleuk www.the-shuffle.co.uk




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THE GREAT ST LOUIS

Location: Bolton

Band Members:

John - Guitar/Vox,

Dan - Bass/Vox,

Dunc - Guitar/Vox,

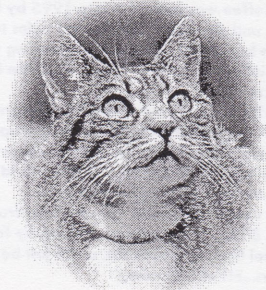
Ryland - Drums/Vox

Sounds Like: Superb melodic, gruff punk in the vein of Leatherface

Influences: Vodka

History: Their album 'Forever Now' is out on JSNTG records. They also feature on the Leatherface tribute album alongside Sinkin' Ships, Hot Water Music and many more. These guys have put in two of the best sets that the TNS band nights have ever seen.

Hear them at: myspace.com/thegreatstlouis



Davey Psychotronic and Matt Woods take time out from 'getting it on' to chat about Matt's solo material.

Can you tell us why you decided to start doing solo shows and what you feel you achieve compared to your (many) band shows?

I decided to do the solo stuff after me and Dan from Gizmo played a gig without our drummer in Birmingham, it was a good laugh but Dan wasn't really into the idea, and cos we couldn't rehearse I was writing songs we didn't get to play. Plus I got into gigs for fuck all and occasionally got free booze.

Which bands did you listen to growing up and which bands can you recommend that influence your song writing and sound?

As a nipper I was weaned on Bobby Darrin, Johnny Cash and Ricky Nelson by my parents. I got into Metallica, Pantera, etc when I was about 10-11, and went on from there really. I would say as well as punk and metal stuff, I really like ska and country, and also enjoy funk, hip hop and a bit of drum'n'bass.

Song writing, I recommend Curtis Eller, Paul Carter and I really rate Jeff Buckley, he's got a beautiful voice. Tragic, really. Rumour has it that from now on all your solo gigs will feature you and your banjo. Is this true and what influenced you to play the banjo?

Yeah, I don't really feel comfortable playing an acoustic guitar at gigs, and you look a bit of a twat playing an electric on your own. Banjos are indisputably awesome, and so I thought it would be the way forward. My Grandads both played banjo, and when I saw Curtis Eller for the first time I thought 'Yeah, I want one'.

Can you list all the instruments you can play (or have) Which is your favourite and why?

I can really only actually 'play' the guitar and the bass to any real degree, I'm getting by on the drums, and have a crack at banjo, harmonica and a little one-finger organ work (fnarr).

I always forget what fun the guitar is when I haven't played for a while, but there is nothing like battering the drums when the mood takes you. Then again, I'm a noisy bastard and I just like making a racket.

What are your plans, as a solo artist, for 2008?

Hopefully I will be writing and recording the follow up to 'Attack of the Killer Twat', tentatively entitled 'A Trip to the Bad Man Zoo' for Leicester's finest, Winston Records. I want to have a go at some other styles of music throughout the album too.

I will, doubtless, just sit in my flat drinking cider and complaining that everything in the world is shit, getting fatter and uglier, waiting until I finally keel over and vomit my last bile-crusted curse on humanity.

Matt Woods Biography

I am Matt Woods. I have been playing in bands since I was about 14, most recently the Dangerous Aces, Revenge of the Psychotronic Man and External Menace, as well as a bit of harmonica for the Medicine Bow. I used to be in Gizmo, Grantham's premier non-resident punk motherfuckers (except the English Dogs), and I live in Manchester.

I have been playing sporadic solo gigs for about 4 years in various states of despair on various instruments, my success rate verges from 'passable' to 'bottleable'. I once had a residency at Churchill's in Grantham, under the name 'The Amazing Acoustic Sounds of Mr. Matt Woods'. I played every Friday night for 2 weeks, then the pub shut down, and has not to my knowledge reopened.

So far I have recorded 1 CD entitled 'Attack of the Killer Twat' for Winston Records of Leicester, and have played gigs around the North-West and Midlands, as well as playing Wasted 2006 and Rebellion 2007, where some drunk people bought my CDs. Forthcoming is the sequel 'A Trip to the Bad Man Zoo' currently in production (When I can get to Leeds), hopefully coinciding with a plethora of rock-slaying gigs alongside Slayer, the Dwarves and Elvis. Our agents are in talks.



DOG TOFFEE (Manchester)

Can you tell us how Dog Toffee came about and what you set out to do as a band?

Dog Toffee was formed in late 1995 by Gavin Rourke and Sean Lyons. We got together from our love of punk and rock n roll, and decided to put the two styles together, as no-one was and still isn't doing that around Manchester.

Which bands did you listen to growing up and which bands ultimately influence your song writing and sound?

Main influences as Dog Toffee would be New Bomb Turks, Misfits, Rocket from the Crypt, Dwarves...any garage rock band really.

What have been your favourite moments as a band over the years and what have been your worse?

Favourite moments have been the Therapy? tour, The Wildhearts tour, playing with the Misfits, The Damned, Turbonegro and New Bomb Turks, also our European tours were always a hoot.

If you were stranded on a desert island with no food, which member of the band would you eat first and why?

Dale, cos he's probably the meatiest.

What can we expect to see and hear from Dog Toffee in 2008?

Well, DT has become more of a hobby for us rather than our whole lives as it used to be, so we just get together when we feel like it and rock out, so it'll just be the same in 2008.

Cheers...BH aka GavDog.

Interview by Davey

HARIJAN

How important do you consider the fusion of punk, reggae and ska in your own music and on the music scene in a wider context? In our own music it is essential. That is what our music is - the fusion of punk and rock with all the different off-shoots of reggae. It's importance on the wider scene? - we think it is very important, it has a proud history and there is no doubt ska is ingrained on the British pop sub-science.

You are able to play comfortably on both punk and ska bills. How do the audiences differ and which do you prefer?

It is a buzz to see ppl skank but equally gratifying to see 2 old school punks mosh/have a fight. We play comfortably on any bill - once we played to some posh studenty types sat on chairs and just got in their faces and went for it. We don't give a fuck so we go for it whatever the gig.

You have been involved in the Manchester music scene for a number of years now. How has it changed over the last few years? What are its good and bad points and how can it improve?

The best points are seeing the nights like the Skabar and the TNS night at Joshua Brookes evolve into such good nights over the last few years. It is easy to forget how much work and time it takes to make popular nights like that.

How difficult is it having so many members in the band in terms of gigging and practicing? Is there a core set of members who write the music?

Obviously with 8 or 9 members things are a little chaotic but there is a method to the madness. We work together in little sub-units then come together twice a week to make the magic happen (!)

You have been accused of being bad influences on your younger gigging partners, the Fractions. What degree of responsibility do you take for Martin Jackson's transition into a drunken emo idiot?

We take a lot of responsibility for a lot of the Fractions characteristics..... but Martins emoness??? There isn't a shred of emo in any of Harijan so we're afraid we can't take any credit for that.

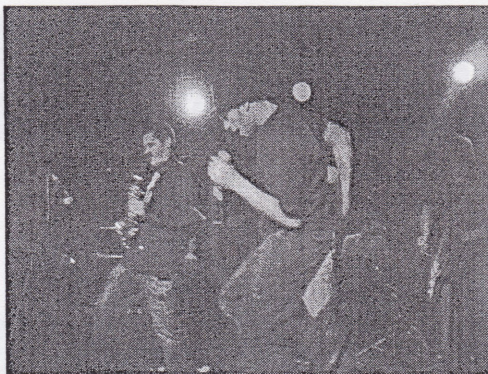
Questions by Andy, Answers by Mike

Band members:

Danny - drums, Ian - bass, Willi - guitar, Rick - guitar, Mike - vocals, Alex - trumpet, Joe - trombone, Garstang sax and Ewan - trombone

Based: Manchester/Bolton

myspace.com/harijan



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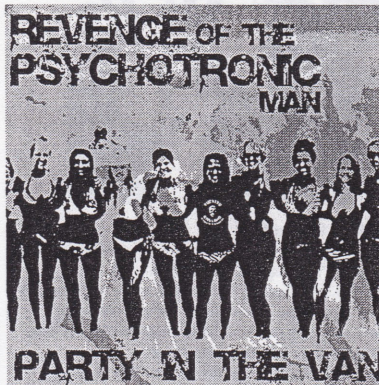
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My personal favourite was the Dwarves. They are incredibly nice guys and their audience really 'got' us. SLF was also a fun tour, but the band were a little standoffish and their fans are tough work.

Questions by Andy, Answers by Andrew Griswold



thekirkz.co.uk mspace.com/thekirkz

The Shadowcops

Hear them at: myspace.com/theshadowcops www.theshadowcops.co.uk

In a time when so many punk veterans are peddling songs written years ago or playing overpriced tours (no names mentioned) in a bid to make a last few quid and subsequently making a mockery of everything punk ever stood for, it was a very nice surprise to hear an album of new songs by a band who are genuinely still good. Subhumans are good musicians and whilst some of the lyrics are a tiny bit cringe-worthy, overall this is an old school punk offering that is genuinely worth listening too as a contemporary piece of music. The ska edged 'Too Fat, Too Thin' was my favourite, but this is good throughout. **Andy**

CHECK THIS SHIT OUT!

DOWN AND OUTS - FRIDAY NIGHTS MONDAY MORNINGS (Dead And Gone Records)

Liverpool's finest (possibly only) street-punk scallywags release their 2nd album on hardcore label Dead & Gone, which usually raises a few eyebrows, but their songs have enough clout behind them to justify their inclusion on such a heavyweight roster. 'Friday Nights...' picks up where their last release 'Boys From The Blackstuff' spat into the faces of those of you who have caught their anthemic live shows, except this time they seem a bit more reflective & remembering times gone by. But they still love slugging off the fake 'punk' - see track 3 (Pocket Money Punks) for more details. There are songs about loss (Rough Diamond, Nihilio Sanctum Esnte), disillusionment (We Want More, The End Of The Line), but ultimately the album's about positivity & the feeling you can achieve anything if you've got your mates supporting you & you can shove a few bevies down your neck (Get A Grip Son, Living For The Weekend). My fave tune on the album is the ultra-catchy Anchors Away, but this altogether is a consistently cracking cd from a band who are only getting better. Check 'em out live, buy their cds - long live Scouse punk! **Mikey Wong**

TH' LEGENDARY SHACK*SHAKERS - SWAMPBLOOD(Yep Roc Records)

16 tracks. 13 of them less than 3 minutes long. Yep, this is swamp-billy (I just made that up) at it's finest.

Utilising mouth harps, fiddles, saws, ukeleles, mandolins, & more guest musicians than you can shake a whisky-soaked stick at, th' Shakers produce an album that almost sounds more like a compilation than one band. This works more than it doesn't, but there's still a few questionable tunes on here, but as most of them are over by the 120 second mark they're extremely forgivable.

Fans of Reverend Horton Heat & rock'n'roll with a rockabilly feel in general will love tunes like Easter Flesh, Cheat The Hangman, and Hellwater, but elsewhere they go all lounge (Angel Lust), dixie-land jazz (Born Again Again), boogie-woogie (Swampblood), & sitting-on-the-porch-sipping-moonshine-blues (Old Spur Line).

The album lags in places, with the last 3 songs descending into dreariness, so I suppose they could've done with trimming a few tracks to keep the overall rhythm & feel to the album a bit tighter, but when all's said & done it's twang-tastic. Yeee-haaaaarr! **Mikey Wong**

Just Panic - Stand Up straight In the line of Fire EP (New Home Records)

Just Panic almost sound like a hybrid of Against Me and the Alkaline Trio. If you are thinking that can't quite work however, you are very wrong. Combining Against Me-esque folk punk with the Trio's darker melodies, this Liverpool band have come up with a very impressive ep. When you add some perfectly executed vocal harmonies, fast paced drums and two very good song-writers to the equation you are definitely onto a winner. Older tracks, 'When the Sea Rolls In' and in particular 'The Ballad Of...' are still very impressive, but it's the ridiculously infectious new track, 'Crime' (which we are lucky enough to have on the TNSrecords compilation), that really stands out on this 6 track offering, which should propel this 3 piece to much bigger and better things.

Get a copy from: <http://newhomerecords.bigcartel.com/>
You won't regret it! **Andy**

Bullet Treatment - The Mistake (Think Fast! Records)

This was actually released in 2006 but I was a bit slow on the uptake. If you like the Bronx (as I do) this features the distinctive vocals of Bronx front man, Matt Caughthran, which are a real strength of this recording. On offer here are 16 quality tracks of balls to the wall hardcore. Grindstone and Pointless Conversation are the stand out tracks, but it is consistent throughout. Since they formed 6 years ago apparently they have had 20 different members, but any notion of this being merely a side project release will be dismissed quickly due to the quality of the material. You can make comparisons to a lot of 80s hardcore and if Gallows manage to reach the potential they are showing maybe they'll produce something like this in the near future. Top Quality! **Andy**

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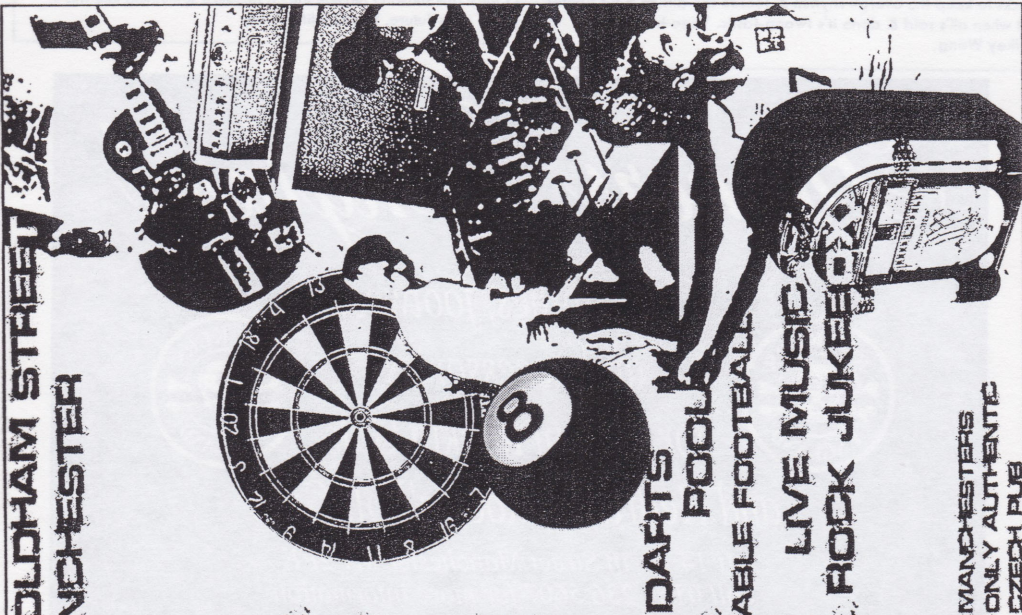
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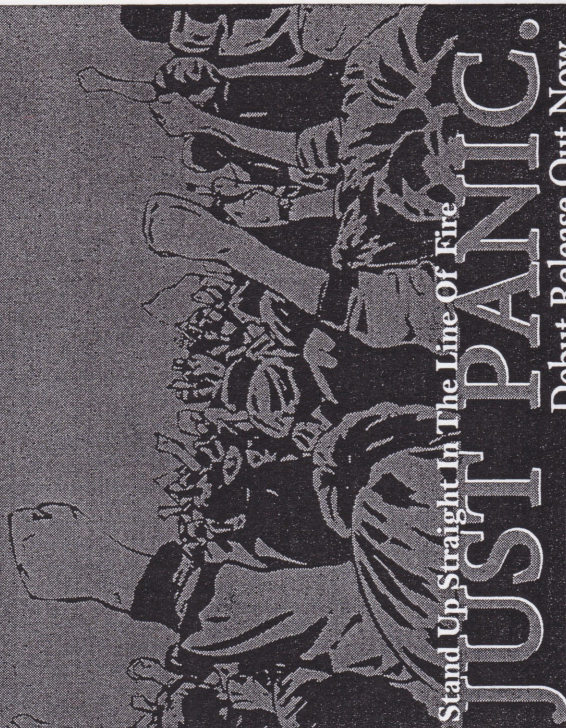
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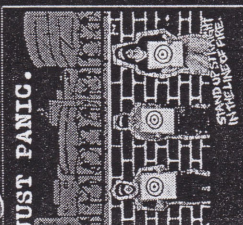


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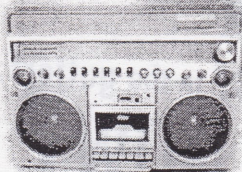


A dynamic new EP released by this Southport trio showcases their passionate views in the form of six compelling folk punk tracks, each blazing with intensity and feeling.

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tim g



TNS caught up with top Manchester producer, TimG. Here's what he had to say!

How did you get into producing music? Has it been a lifetime ambition?

Aside from being a rock star, music production has been what I've wanted to do since I was about 15. The rock star thing never happened, but I got stuck into all aspects of performing, recording, editing, programming and remixing music and generally messing around with sound from an early age yeah. I went to Huddersfield Uni and studied music technology a few years back.

What has your musical background been? You used to be in Harijan didn't you?

I learned to play guitar and piano at an early age and played in a number of bands over the years. I was very much into rock and metal as an young-un, and then got into grunge and punk and stuff. Later on I really got into ska-core bands like Capdown and King Prawn and I joined some of my good friends in a band called Harijan.

What bands have you worked with in the past? Which have been the most enjoyable bands to work with and which recordings are you most happy with?

Lots and lots. Mostly from the north. Sonic Boom Six, The Shadowcops, Random Hand, Catch-it-Kebabs, Dusty Not Digital, LAP, Above Them, Stand Out Riot and Sounds of Swami are some of my favourites and recordings I'm most happy with. Really loving The Fractions new track ('We

Were Kings') at the moment, can't listen to it enough (and recording the Xmas version was the most I've ever laughed in the studio)
What would your advice be to any new bands who are planning to record? How important do you think it is for up and coming bands to get their music recorded?

I would advise them to make sure their guitar intonation is set up right, their string and drum skins are reasonable new, and that they practice a lot before they come in the studio. I often spend a lot of time setting up guitars and trying to make 10 year old drum skins sound good during a recording session, which is time which could have spent on getting the best out of the songs! If you can do a DIY home recording before you come in that's a bonus. Also knowing things like your own lyrics beforehand is useful! (you'd be surprised how many people think it isn't)

Is it important for you as a producer to enjoy the music that you are recording? Have there ever been bands that you have found it difficult to work with?

Ha ha! A few. But most of the time I find I can get into the tracks one way or another, even if the style isn't particularly to my tastes. I always try my best to get into the music anyway. And I do quite enjoy turd polishing sometimes! Not naming any names!
You have done a few 'Mash Ups' for MTV. How did you get into doing that? What makes a good mash up? The TNS personal favourite is the Beastie Boys vs Andrew WK. What's your personal favourite and how can people get hold of them?
I just started making them whilst I was in my last year of uni for a laugh. I really liked what Soulwax were doing at the time and thought I'd try it myself. I left uni and set up www.timgmusic.co.uk and started putting mp3s out there calling myself 'Tim G'. I found a whole network of people with silly aliases doing the same thing on the internet through websites like gybo.org and culturedeluxe.com. My bootlegs/mashups quickly became quite popular and got a bit of radio play on XFM and DJed a bit around Manchester on nights (mainly 'Boomselection'). I got involved in a bit of a legal dispute with the BPI over copyright and XFM mentioned it on their show and played more of my stuff which was nice! MTV contacted me soon after and asked me to do some tracks for their show. I think a good mash up takes two completely different tracks and makes them sound totally natural together. I don't really know what my favourite one is, probably 'Pound for the Peas' (Capdown vs Black Eyed Peas) or 'The Ballad of J Lo' (J Lo vs Tenacious D) for comedy factor. You can download most of my bootlegs from my kind-of-secret download folder @ www.timgmusic.co.uk/nothingtoseehere

After working with so many bands from the Manchester area what is your opinion of the local scene at the moment?

There's a pretty vibrant and passionate local scene in my opinion, certainly in the circles I'm familiar with. I like that we've got so many bands in Manchester, yet everyone seems to know everyone else, and not just in one particular genre of music. I haven't spent as much time going to gigs recently as I'd like as I've been mega busy setting up my new studio but you guys and Bomb Ibiza put on some great nights with some fucking mint bands and there's always a really friendly atmosphere. There's a lot of energy and talent about imo.

What would your advice be to anyone who wants to get into the recording side of music? How should they start out?

I'd say get your own bedroom setup and start experimenting and trying things out. College/Uni courses can be good for teaching you the basic theory behind things and if you're lucky you get to use some good gear. But I really think you need to have your own setup which you obsess over to really get a good perspective on recording and producing. Being a keen musician is quite important too I think.

Who are you recording in the near future?

I've got the John Player Specials in next week and soon after I'm recording a band from Bradford called 'The Brand New Analogues'. 'Sounds of Swami' are also booked in for February.

So you are in the process of moving into a new studio. What is the new studio like and how is it going to improve things for you as a producer?

The new studio is really good. I've been working at Inch studios for a year or so now and I've never been able to have things set up just how I like. The new place will set up better to get the sounds I like in less time. We've got 2 big live rooms a vocal booth, a massive control room and I'm also building a guitar amp isolation booth. So I will be able to record more bands live and have everything nicely isolated. The rooms have been designed by studio designer Andrew Parry (who designed Gracieland studios, Lisa Stansfield's studio). My dream is to have a studio where everything runs super efficiently so that I can purely focus on the best sound for the song and directing the bands performance.

How should bands get in touch if they want to work with you and what sort of bands would you like to work with yourself?

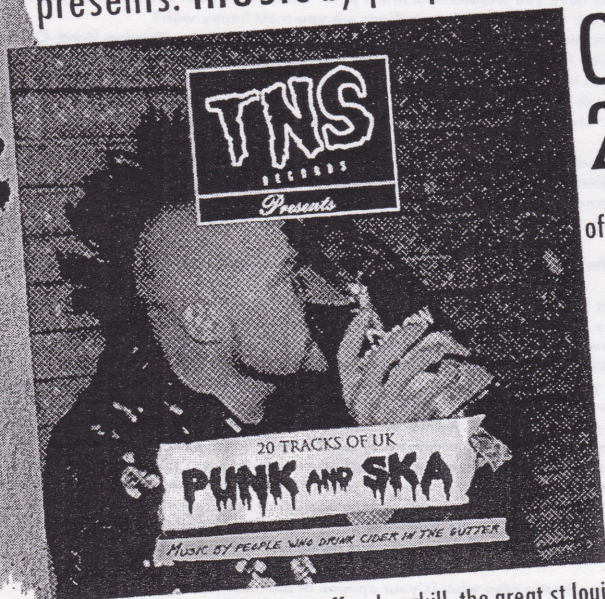
Email me at tim@timgmusic.co.uk, find me on myspace @ myspace.com/timgmusic or ring me on 07776436812 or drop by the studio at Bridgewater mill in Eccles if you're in the area. I work with any kind of bands really, but I think I shine best on stuff in the areas of metal, rock, punk, ska and indie. I'm always really interested in bands with really original eclectic ideas and sounds too. Most of all, I like making people sound LOUD!

I'll probably be offering people cheap deals in the next few months whilst the new studio is being broken in so poor people get in touch soon!

Andy

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